

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 MCT-01 FBOE-00 SCA-01 USIA-15

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R 301210Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0260

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 15973

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, AFSP

SUBJECT: CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR PRIVATE GUARDS

1. ON AUGUST 12 EMBASSY ROME SENT A NOTE VERBALE (NO. 452) TO THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASKING PERMISSION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH A QUALIFIED AGENCY TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ARMED GUARD SERVICES FOR THE EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS IN ITALY. ON SEPTEMBER 14 THE EMBASSY SENT ANOTHER NOTE VERBALE (NO. 524) TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH STATED:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WISHES TO DRAW TO ITS ATTENTION AN EXPLOSION WHICH OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY 0330 HOURS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, AT THE PREMISES OF THE EMBASSY'S LIBRARY LOCATED AT VIA VENETO 62B. JUDGING FROM A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION, THE EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB PLACED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS AGAINST THE DOOR OF THE BUILDING. THE COMPETENT

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ITALIAN AUTHORITIES RESPONDED TO THE EXPLOSION AND HAVE

INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT. DAMAGE WAS CONFINED TO THE LIBRARY ENTRANCE AREA AS WELL AS TO WINDOWS IN THE AREA.

"WHILE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR DAMAGES DONE TO THE USIS LIBRARY AND THE ADJOINING EMBASSY ANNEX THE EMBASSY WISHES TO REITERATE ITS EARLIER REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROTECTION FOR ITS PREMISES TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THIS TYPE OF UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT, AND TO SECURE THE AGREEMENT OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE CONTRACTING OF THE PROFESSIONAL GUARD SERVICE REQUESTED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE VERBALE NO. 452 OF AUGUST 12, 1976.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 18 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPLIED WITH THE FOLLOWING NOTE VERBALE (NO. 7894):

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN EXPRESSING ITS DEEP REGRET FOR HOSTILE ACT PERPETRATED ON SEPTEMBER 11, WHICH RESULTED IN DAMAGES TO THE USIS LIBRARY, ASSURES THE EMBASSY THAT IMMEDIATE AND THOROUGH INQUIRIES ARE UNDERWAY ON THE PARTY OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES TO DISCOVER THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

"AS FOR THE ASSUMPTION ON THE PART OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF PRIVATE PERSONNEL TO ASSIGN TO THE PROTECTPON OF ITS OWN PROPERTY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU THAT IT HAS NO OBJECTIONS."

3. ALL POSTS IN ITALY ARE ADVISED THAT THIS COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOI PROVIDES THE NECESSARY APPROVAL TO THE MISSION FOR THE HIRING OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSED ARMED GUARD SERVICES IF REQUIRED.

4. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE EMBASSY NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 8 WHETHER SUCH SERVICES ARE REQUIRED AT THEIR POST. COST ESTIMATES SHOULD ACCOMPANY ANY REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SERVICE. NEGATIVE REPLIES ARE REQUIRED.VOLPE

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